

Other Packaging Materials

The shipper must determine whether or not a corrugated box offers suitable containment for the particular product to be shipped, bearing in mind the product's weight, size, fragility and transportation hazards to be encountered. If there is some doubt, then other packaging methods must be considered.

Boxboard

Boxboard, or solid fibreboard, is not really suitable as a shipping carton. It does not have the strength, except with considerable weight, of corrugated board, and it does not have the same rigidity.

Boxboard is most usually used as a secondary, or point of sale carton. It is also used in mailer tubes because the tubes are spirally wound and this is not possible for corrugated material.

Wood Boxes

The nailed wood box is one of the most satisfactory containers for overseas shipments for products of moderate weight.

However there are regulations in many countries relative to which woods may be used, and their treatment. See **Introduction to Foreign Packaging Regulations** for more information.

Boxes should be made of seasoned lumber (not recently cut or green) with moisture content between 12% and 19%. A knot should not cover more than one third the width of a single board.

Use blocking and bracing to secure the product within the container. If the load must be kept upright, equip the box with lift handles.

Reinforce the boxes with adequate metal tension straps placed one-sixth of the distance from the ends, unless containers are in excess of 48 inches in length or over 250 pounds. Then three or more straps should be used, with one for each additional 24 inches. Staples should be used to hold strapping in place when boards are $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch in thickness or greater.

It is not advisable to economise through the use of second hand wood boxes. They may be deficient in strength and would not permit easy detection of pilferage.

Plywood is the best material for use over a basic frame. Wafer board or particle board should not be used; they are much less resistant to puncture impacts.